

## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Results of Deer and Turkey hunting seasons: Fall - winter '06 - '07

1. Deer and turkeys harvested within Missouri for all deer and turkey hunting seasons are currently recorded in the Telecheck system operated by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) where hunters call in, or record through the internet, each of their deer and turkey harvests. In September, 2006 (MDC) began including a separate additional recording for Fort Leonard Wood (FLW) as part of the Telecheck system in order for us to gain reliable numbers for total deer and turkey harvested on FLW. We expect this separate FLW indicator in the system to continue in the future, including spring turkey season, so we will have accurate harvest numbers into the foreseeable future.
2. Archery hunters bagged a total of 96 deer and 5 turkeys on FLW during the archery season which ran from 15 September, 2006 – 10 November and 22 November – January 15, 2007. Enthusiasm was high for the nine newly established Archery-only Hunting Areas this year. Also the new FLW Hunting and Fishing website made daily check-in for hunters through Range Control easier.
3. Fall firearm turkey hunters checked-in a total of 9 turkeys from FLW during the season which ran from 1-31 October, 2006. Busy military training schedules made Hunting Area availability challenging this year.
4. FLW firearms deer hunters harvested a total of 186 deer during all portions of regular firearms and muzzle-loader deer seasons in 2006. Eight of which came during the early youth-only weekend in October, 151 from the November portion of firearms season, and 27 during the muzzle-loader only portion of the season in November and December. The annual, statewide modern firearms and muzzleloader deer seasons ran from 11-21 November and 24 November – 3 December, 2006.
5. The FLW Historic Weapons Managed Deer Hunt (HWMDH) on 16-17 December, 2006 brought 530 hunters (of 693 registered) to FLW. A total of 74 deer were harvested: 11 adult bucks, 12 button bucks, and 51 does. The 14% harvest success rate was near the average for this managed hunt though some hunters are quite selective in their harvest opportunities. Twelve Hunting Areas were closed on Saturday due to training schedules but only one area (HA 38) was closed on Sunday.
6. During all deer seasons combined FLW hunters harvested a total of 356 deer on FLW. All harvested deer during the HWMDH were aged and inspected and the overall condition of harvested deer was good. Ages of harvested deer followed an expected descending curve with more deer being harvested in the younger age classes. Several adult bucks had already shed their antlers by the HWMDH this year. Harvested bucks did show a bi-modal curve with fewer 1 and ½ year olds being harvested due to the four-point-on-a-side antler restrictions in place. There were exceptional acorn crops in both 2005 and 2006 which should contribute to overall herd and flock health. The installation supports healthy populations of both deer and turkey so similar harvest levels can be expected during future hunting seasons.

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